

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 16, 2004. Claims 1-25 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 25 were rejected and claims 2-9, 12-15 and 18-24 were objected to. In this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 25 have been amended and claims 2 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-25 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-11 and 13-25 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**Abstract**

The abstract was objected to because of informalities.

Applicant has amended the abstract, and submits that the abstract as amended is in compliance with all formality requirements.

**Specification**

Applicant has made numerous amendments to the specification, and believes that the specification is now in compliance with all formality requirements. No new matter has been added.

**§102 Rejections**

Claims 1, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Calvignac et al. (U.S. Patent RE 34896).

Claims 2-9, 12-15 and 18-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-9, 12-15 and 18-24 would be allowable if

rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled, thereby rendering their objections moot.

The allowable subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 10. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 10 are believed to be allowable.

The allowable subject matter of claim 22 has been incorporated into independent claims 11, 16 and 17. Therefore, independent claims 11, 16 and 17 are believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 10, 11, 16 and 17 are allowable.

Furthermore, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their base claims, dependent claims 3-9, 13-15 and 18-25 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims 1, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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